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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 001231

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STATE FOR EUR/SCE
NSC FOR BRAUN

EO 12958 DECL: 10/11/2016
TAGS PREL, PGOV, HR, EUN, NATO
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER - PM SANADER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
BUSH

Classified By: Ambassador Robert A. Bradtke for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

A "BALKANS" SUCCESS STORY

1. (C) Fifteen years after the death of Yugoslavia and eleven years after a horrible civil war, Croatia is poised to become that rarity) a Be
SANADER'S AGENDA

2. (C) Prime Minister Sanader has made the rounds of all the major European capitals, but he knows that Washington is the capital that really

3. (C) Apart from this symbolism, Sanader will be seeking the President's support for strong NATO enlargement language at November's Riga Summ

ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS

4. (C) For the most part, Sanader has already paid up front for this meeting over the course of his nearly three years in power as head of a c

5. (C) In the military sphere, Sanader's government has made considerable progress on a major defense reform effort that will fully professor
ZAGREB 00001231 002 OF 002

6. (C) We can usefully push Sanader to do more to prepare Croatia for NATO accession; Sanader himself should be more active in generating publ

CULTIVATING A FUTURE PARTNER AND ALLY IN THE REGION

7. (C) Croatia is a small country. Its contribution to regional and global security will always be modest, its engagement capacity limited, it